

FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Program Meeting Briefing

- Program participants want to thank the FCC Commissioners and Staff for the creation and administration of the RHCP program. We can think of very few national goals of greater importance than expanding networked broadband services for the improved delivery of telemedicine and health care services to rural America.
- The success of the program to date has largely been a result of the creativeness, openness, flexibility and commitment of the FCC and USAC staff members involved.
- As the RHCP program has unfolded, the continuous clarification of program orders, rules, practices and principles through the FCC RHCP FAQs at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/rural/rhcp.html#faqs> has been extremely useful.
- The weekly audio conferences with USAC staff have been instrumental in keeping participants informed of program developments and in addressing participant concerns.
- The process for administering the program can still be improved.
 - One area of improvement should be in documenting advice and guidance from the weekly USAC audio conferences with Project Contacts (PCs)
 - RHCPP needs a standard guidance process in which the PCs are consulted in major decisions that affect the project
- Requests
 - A means of documenting decisions and guidance that are provided by FCC/USAC so that RHCPP Participants can base their designs, processes and actions on timely, consistent and reliable information. The process will help reduce the risks to the projects that guidance will be either misunderstood or later modified in a way that disadvantages the projects who have acted on the original guidance. The process of providing and documenting guidance would need to operate quickly to avoid waste of this spending opportunity.
 - That a representative group of the RHCPP Participants meet with the FCC and USAC staff on a regular basis to provide constructive input and advice to help ensure the success of the Pilot Program.